

LOW INCOME/POVERTY DATA

LOW INCOME

The Arizona Department of Commerce, Population Statistics Unit, uses the U.S. Census Bureau as its main source for Population Data and Data terminology. The U.S. Census Bureau does not use the term “Low Income” as a term of measure for its income data collected either from the Decennial Census, American Community Survey (ACS), or Current Population Survey (CPS), etc. Therefore, when looking for census data based on the term “Low Income”, you will likely be asked to define the income parameters which constitute “Low Income”.

The reason for this is that the data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau is not qualified as Low, Medium, or High, but presented as ranges of income:

Subject	Households	Margin of Error	Families	Margin of Error	Married-couple families	Margin of Error	Nonfamily households	Margin of Error
Total	2,251,546	+/-9,458	1,491,772	+/-13,954	1,114,544	+/-13,387	759,774	+/-12,127
Less than \$10,000	6.6%	+/-0.2	4.7%	+/-0.3	1.8%	+/-0.2	12.1%	+/-0.5
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.1%	+/-0.2	3.0%	+/-0.3	1.8%	+/-0.2	9.9%	+/-0.5
\$15,000 to \$24,999	11.0%	+/-0.3	8.7%	+/-0.4	6.5%	+/-0.4	16.4%	+/-0.5
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.8%	+/-0.4	10.6%	+/-0.4	9.0%	+/-0.4	14.6%	+/-0.6
\$35,000 to \$49,999	15.5%	+/-0.4	14.9%	+/-0.5	13.8%	+/-0.6	16.7%	+/-0.6
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19.4%	+/-0.4	21.0%	+/-0.6	22.0%	+/-0.7	15.7%	+/-0.6
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.5%	+/-0.4	14.6%	+/-0.5	17.0%	+/-0.6	7.2%	+/-0.4
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11.1%	+/-0.3	13.8%	+/-0.4	17.0%	+/-0.5	4.8%	+/-0.4
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3.4%	+/-0.2	4.3%	+/-0.2	5.4%	+/-0.3	1.4%	+/-0.2
\$200,000 or more	3.4%	+/-0.2	4.4%	+/-0.2	5.7%	+/-0.3	1.2%	+/-0.2
Median income (dollars)	49,889	+/-508	58,627	+/-757	69,079	+/-863	32,345	+/-465
Mean income (dollars)	66,132	+/-670	75,786	+/-845	86,938	+/-1,021	43,932	+/-876

This example from the American Community Survey shows how the data is presented. The data, as with the decennial census and other Census Bureau surveys, which present income data, does not present levels of income (low, medium, or high), but show all incomes in ranges. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately determine “Low Income” from the data that is presented. The income data is relative to the amount of other incomes in the area or jurisdiction being researched. Levels of Income (Low, Medium, or High) must be determined by the researcher/data user.

POVERTY

The U.S. Census Bureau does apply income measures in its collection and presentation of Poverty data. Annually, the Census Bureau through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) presents a [Poverty Threshold](#). Through this threshold measure, every individual or person in a family is determined to be either in poverty or not in poverty. Along with this determination, the analyzation of poverty threshold and income of individuals and families allows the bureau to provide a Poverty Ratio Range that shows, within a jurisdiction, the level of poverty for individuals and families. The poverty data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau can be used in part to determine qualification for some government

programs. However, there are usually many other factors that are considered. Below is an example how poverty is presented through a table from the American Community Survey. Table ACS -S1701. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months:

Subject	Total	<u>Margin of Error</u>	Below poverty level	<u>Margin of Error</u>	<u>Percent below poverty level</u>	<u>Margin of Error</u>
Population for whom poverty status is determined	6,225,486	+/-3,631	881,257	+/-31,475	14.2%	+/-0.5
AGE						
Under 18 years	1,641,177	+/-3,827	330,910	+/-15,625	20.2%	+/-1.0
Related children under 18 years	1,631,545	+/-4,764	322,332	+/-15,924	19.8%	+/-1.0
18 to 64 years	3,777,634	+/-1,898	481,357	+/-18,016	12.7%	+/-0.5
65 years and over	806,675	+/-1,720	68,990	+/-4,367	8.6%	+/-0.5
SEX						
Male	3,095,907	+/-3,430	404,883	+/-17,335	13.1%	+/-0.6
Female	3,129,579	+/-3,614	476,374	+/-16,791	15.2%	+/-0.5
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN						
One race	6,075,956	+/-10,504	860,921	+/-30,980	14.2%	+/-0.5
White	4,765,568	+/-22,472	551,872	+/-23,833	11.6%	+/-0.5
Black or African American	216,343	+/-5,692	49,922	+/-6,010	23.1%	+/-2.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	272,863	+/-5,184	90,750	+/-6,920	33.3%	+/-2.5
Asian	149,571	+/-3,554	17,871	+/-3,830	11.9%	+/-2.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	7,417	+/-1,082	757	+/-490	10.2%	+/-7.0
Some other race	664,194	+/-21,347	149,749	+/-14,873	22.5%	+/-2.0
Two or more races	149,530	+/-9,489	20,336	+/-3,267	13.6%	+/-2.1
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	1,844,978	+/-3,730	405,706	+/-21,264	22.0%	+/-1.2
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	3,673,288	+/-4,008	308,875	+/-15,571	8.4%	+/-0.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Population 25 years and over	4,020,283	+/-3,355	423,973	+/-14,504	10.5%	+/-0.4
Less than high school graduate	655,540	+/-11,823	160,395	+/-7,218	24.5%	+/-1.0
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,073,597	+/-19,353	128,331	+/-8,993	12.0%	+/-0.8
Some college, associate's degree	1,261,936	+/-17,541	95,644	+/-6,019	7.6%	+/-0.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,029,210	+/-12,933	39,603	+/-3,696	3.8%	+/-0.4
EMPLOYMENT STATUS						
Civilian labor force 16 years and over	3,005,858	+/-17,462	239,801	+/-11,936	8.0%	+/-0.4
Employed	2,833,052	+/-17,161	189,805	+/-10,508	6.7%	+/-0.4
Male	1,566,261	+/-11,099	97,658	+/-6,373	6.2%	+/-0.4
Female	1,266,791	+/-11,249	92,147	+/-6,687	7.3%	+/-0.5
Unemployed	172,806	+/-8,479	49,996	+/-5,080	28.9%	+/-2.3
Male	96,312	+/-6,168	23,942	+/-3,295	24.9%	+/-2.9
Female	76,494	+/-4,409	26,054	+/-3,518	34.1%	+/-3.6
WORK EXPERIENCE						
Population 16 years and over	4,762,829	+/-4,415	581,008	+/-19,825	12.2%	+/-0.4
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	1,910,884	+/-16,766	63,839	+/-5,686	3.3%	+/-0.3
Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	1,304,713	+/-16,761	192,170	+/-10,190	14.7%	+/-0.8
Did not work	1,547,232	+/-15,095	324,999	+/-11,977	21.0%	+/-0.7
All Individuals below:						
50 percent of poverty level	412,456	+/-21,711	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
125 percent of poverty level	1,179,715	+/-33,618	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
150 percent of poverty level	1,475,092	+/-36,299	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
185 percent of poverty level	1,889,452	+/-37,538	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
200 percent of poverty level	2,090,017	+/-36,550	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Unrelated individuals for whom poverty status is determined	1,180,632	+/-21,178	262,400	+/-9,825	22.2%	+/-0.7
Male	610,578	+/-15,172	124,476	+/-6,917	20.4%	+/-0.9
Female	570,054	+/-11,871	137,924	+/-6,695	24.2%	+/-1.0

Subject	Total	<u>Margin of Error</u>	Below poverty level	<u>Margin of Error</u>	<u>Percent below poverty level</u>	<u>Margin of Error</u>
Mean income deficit for unrelated individuals (dollars)	6,186	+/-132	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	507,220	+/-15,177	15,069	+/-2,681	3.0%	+/-0.5
Worked less than full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	318,862	+/-9,555	99,083	+/-5,975	31.1%	+/-1.6
Did not work	354,550	+/-10,165	148,248	+/-7,251	41.8%	+/-1.4

For more specific information on the subject of poverty here are some key links to U.S. Census Bureau documents:

- Main Poverty Page - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html>
- Poverty Definitions Page - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/definitions.html>
- How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty (Official Measure) - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/povdef.html>
- Poverty Measurement Studies and Alternative Measures - Measuring Poverty: A New Approach - Table of Contents - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/povmeas/toc.html>
- Poverty Measurement Working Papers - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/povmeas/papers/orshansky.html>
- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/description.html#e>